

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,457,879 to Thurlow et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0158630 to Chang et al.; claims 3-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thurlow et al. in view of Chang et al. , and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,513,060 to Nixon et al.; and claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thurlow et al., Chang et al., Nixon et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,455 to Fuisz. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Chang et al. was not filed until February 12, 2003, and is, therefore, not prior art to the claimed invention. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner remove this reference and withdraw the rejections.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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